

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 134375
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 /029 R

66011

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:HBCUSHING

APPROVED BY HA/ORM:HBCUSHING

-----125525 261456Z /53

R 261355Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2447

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 14909 ACTION STATE MAY 25.

QUOTE MITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 14909

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: CONTINENTAL AIRLINES PROPOSAL TO HANDLE

TRANSPORTATION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM THAILAND
TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: A. STATE 128558 B. BANGKOK 14348 C. BANGKOK 14019

1. REF A REQUESTED AN EVALUATION, APPARENTLY BEYOND THAT
OF REF B, OF THE CONTINENTAL AIRLINES PROPOSAL. IN
SUMMARY RESPONSE, CONTINENTAL PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO
REPLACE MOST ICEM ACTIVITIES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
IS PAYING ICEM IN OVERHEAD EXPENSES FOR ITS BANGKOK
OPERATION, WE PRESUME THAT THE CONTINENTAL PROPSAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 134375

WOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER COSTS TO THE
DEPARTMENT BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO OVERHEAD. IN
OTHER WORDS, IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT INCLUDES
COSTS FOR THE SUPPORT OF WESTERN AND THAI PERSONNEL
ASSIGNED TO THE ICEM OFFICE IN BANGKOK, PRESUMABLY THOSE
COSTS WOULD BE ELIMINATED FOR OTHER THAN THE MEDICAL
STAFF.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT EITHER THE JVA OR ICEM COULD PICK UP ICEM FUNCTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM PROVIDED EITHER USE CONTINENTAL AIRLINES FOR TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE FINAL QUESTION IN PARA 2 OF REF A, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A MIX OF THE CONTINENTAL PROPOSAL AND A SPECIAL ICEM PROGRAM FOR US REFUGEES MIGHT BE THE OPTIMAL SOLUTION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE JVA POSSIBLY COULD EXPAND ITS ROLE TO INCLUDE SCREENING OF THOSE REFUGEES ABOUT TO DEPART FROM CAMP, A FUNCTION WHICH ICEM IS NOT CURRENTLY FULFILLING, BUT WHICH ANY OF THE THREE COULD PICK UPUP. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE134375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HBCUSHING
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780223-0120
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780513/aaaaakxk.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7ccb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 128558
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2547417
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINENTAL AIRLINES PROPOSAL TO HANDLE TRANSPORTATION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM THAILAND TO THE UNITED STATES
TAGS: SREF, EAIR, XC, TH, US, CONTINENTAL AIRLINES
To: GENEVA KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d7ccb695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014